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Object name: Apollo DN3550 Workstation

Vintage: c.1988

Synopsis: CAD workstation, MC68030-based, running Apollo Domain/OS. S/N: ???.

Description:

The Apollo workstations were very popular with users of CAD packages such as Mentor Graphics and Cadence. They typically connected to Apollo's proprietary 12Mbps token-ring network (which scaled better than 10Mbps Ethernet but failed if any connected node failed), and ran Apollo's proprietary UNIX-like Domain/OS, which exploited the token-ring network and natively implemented distributed shared memory.

The DN3550 workstations had 25MHz 32-bit MC68030 CPUs and 8-32MB of DRAM, PC-AT compatible ISA expansion slots and ESDI or SCSI disk drives, ran Apollo's proprietary Domain/OS, and could be connected via either Apollo's token-ring network or Ethernet. When Apollo was taken over by Hewlett Packard in 1989 the DN3550 was discontinued, and HP attempted (despite user protests) to serve Apollo's CAD market with their own products.

The Dept.Computer Science at TCD purchased three DN3550 workstations and a DN10000 server from BIC Systems in Belfast in <1989?>. They were connected to Ethernet rather than token-ring, and ran the <Domain/OS ??> operating system. Both the workstations and the DN10000 were used with the Mentor Graphics CAD package.

Apollo DN3550. S/N: ???.

References:

1. Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/?title=Apollo/Domain>
2. Nickolai Zeldovich's Apollo webpage: <http://www.zepa.net/apollo/>

Figure 1: Apollo DN3550 three-quarter view